The humble Petition of the Stationers, Printers and *Booke-ſellers of the Citie of London,*

SHewing, that where a Decree was made in the Star-chamber, concerning the ordering of Printing and Bookeſelling. The chiefe ſcope whereof tended to the abridging of the exceſſiue number of Printers that then were, to the end that by neceſſitie of imployment, they might not be prouoked to fall into ſuch extraordinarie courſes as then were vſed, as Printing and diſperſing of hereticall, ſchiſmaticall, and laſciuious bookes and libels, greatly diſturbing thereby both the Church and Commonwealth: which Decree although it hath bene made aboue 17. yeares paſt, yet the ſaid number of Printers and the abuſes in Printing and Bookeſelling are nothing diminiſhed, but rather increaſed, for that there was no certaine number of Printers thereby limited. And now it is found by experience, that there is no meane left for reformation of the ſaid abuſes, but only by reducing the Printers to a certaine number: For accompliſhment whereof, we haue drawne a Bill to paſſe this Parliament, wherein are contained theſe foure branches. 1. That by death, giuing ouer, or otherwiſe, the number of Printers may be brought to foureteene, beſides the two Printers of the two Vniuerſities. 2. For the auoiding of vnskilfull Printers, that none may vſe the Art of Printing, but ſuch as haue ſerued ſeuen yeares. 3. That none may Print in any obſcure place, but openly. 4. That none may bring any ſeditious or hereticall Bookes from beyond the ſeas, ſuch as Miſſals, Breuiaries, Ladie-pſalters, and the like. For the paſſing wherof, the Petitioners moſt humbly pray your Honors fauourable furtherance: the ſame being a Law greatly tending to the good of the Common-wealth. ANTIQVA.